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LETTER DATED 2 APRIL 1997 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF TOGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a letter dated 2 April 1997, in which Mr. Koffi Panou, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Togo, transmits to you the text of the statement adopted at the conclusion of the first special session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Central Organ of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, held in Lomé on 26 and 27 March 1997, which was devoted to the situation in eastern Zaire.

I am also transmitting to you herewith the text of the communiqué issued at the conclusion of the meeting between the representatives of the Government of the Republic of Zaire and the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of the Congo-Zaire (AFDL).

The Government of Togo would be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Komi Mensah AFETO
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex I

Letter dated 2 April 1997 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Togo addressed to the Secretary-General

On the initiative of the Government of Togo, the Central Organ of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, meeting at the ministerial level during the sixty-fifth ordinary session of the Council of Ministers of OAU, held in Tripoli from 24 to 28 February 1997, decided to hold in Lomé a special session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Central Organ in order to consider the situation in the Great Lakes region, with particular reference to eastern Zaire.

Preceded by a meeting of the Council of Ministers, the first special session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Central Organ met in Lomé on 26 and 27 March 1997, 16 African heads of State and Government, as well as the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Secretary-General of OAU, Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun, joint United Nations/OAU Special Representative for the Great Lakes region, Mr. Aldo Ajello, Special Envoy of the European Union for the Great Lakes region, and special envoys from Germany, the United States of America and France.

In transmitting to you herewith the text of the declaration adopted at the conclusion of this special session of the Conference of Heads of State and Government of the Central Organ, I should like to point out that, during the course of the Summit, Presidents Eyadema, Biya and Abacha, after lengthy informal consultations, succeeded in convincing the two parties to the conflict in eastern Zaire to reiterate their commitment to accept the principles of a ceasefire and negotiations.

The communiqué issued at the conclusion of that meeting, the text of which I am also transmitting herewith [see annex II], indicates that, once the delegations have returned to their countries and consulted with their respective authorities, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of OAU will be informed of the date of the start of negotiations and the proclamation of a ceasefire, which will be announced simultaneously in Lomé, Kinshasa and Goma.

I am convinced that the results of the meeting in Lomé will contribute to a definitive settlement of the crisis in Zaire and to the restoration of peace in that country.

I should be grateful if you would have the texts of the statement and the communiqué circulated as documents of the Security Council.

(Signed) Koffi PANOU

Enclosure

[Original: English and French]

STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY MECHANISM FOR CONFLICT PREVENTION, MANAGEMENT AND RESOLUTION, AT THE LEVEL OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ON THE SITUATION IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO EASTERN ZAIRE, AT LOME, ON 27 MARCH 1997

1. The Heads of State and Government of States Members of the Central Organ of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution met at Lome on 26 and 27 March 1997 to consider the situation in the Great Lakes region, with particular reference to the conflict in eastern Zaire. Also participating in the meeting were the Heads of State and Government or their representatives from the following countries:

(a) Countries of the Great Lakes region that are not members of the Central Organ;

(b) Countries neighbouring Zaire;

(c) African countries that are members of the United Nations Security Council;

(d) Countries involved in the Nairobi process;

(e) The Chairman of the OAU Council of Ministers;

(f) Other OAU member States in their capacity as observers.

2. The Central Organ reiterated its grave concern about the continuing deteriorating security, political, socio-economic and humanitarian situation in the Great Lakes region, especially the current armed conflict in eastern Zaire.

3. The Central Organ welcomed all the initiatives being undertaken by African leaders, as well as those by our partners from outside the continent aimed at finding a peaceful, negotiated and political settlement of the conflict, and stressed the need to ensure proper and adequate coordination of all these initiatives.

4. The Central Organ, having heard and considered a report from H.E. Daniel T. Arap Moi, President of the Republic of Kenya, Chairman of the Nairobi I, II and III Summits and of the Committee of Four mandated by the Nairobi II Summit, expressed its appreciation for the efforts deployed by the African leaders involved in the Nairobi Summits in the search for a peaceful solution to the crisis in eastern Zaire and urged them to continue with their efforts.

5. The Central Organ reaffirmed its full commitment to the principle of territorial integrity and unity of Zaire, as well as respect for the principle

of inviolability of borders, existing at the time of the achievement of national independence as enshrined in the Charter of the OAU, as well as the resolution AHG/Res. 16 (I) adopted at Cairo in July 1964.

*6. The Central Organ condemned all types of foreign military intervention and the use of mercenaries in Zaire.

7. The Central Organ welcomed and expressed support for the Five Point Peace Plan submitted by the United Nations/OAU Special Representative, Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun, as endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 1097 (1997), and by the sixty-fifth ordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers (CM/Dec.305 (LXV)) and urged all parties concerned as well as all member States fully to support the mission and mandate of the Special Representative in the implementation of the Plan.

8. The Central Organ recommended to the Security Council the setting up, in cooperation with OAU, of a mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the United Nations/OAU Peace Plan on Zaire and requested the Secretaries-General of OAU and the United Nations to undertake the necessary consultations to this end.

*9. The Central Organ called for immediate negotiations between the Government of Zaire and the Democratic Alliance for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (AFDL) leading to a ceasefire and complete cessation of hostilities, in order to pave the way for the implementation of the said Plan.

*10. The Central Organ authorized the Secretary-General, in the spirit of paragraph 22 of the Cairo Declaration Establishing the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, to establish contacts with the leadership of the AFDL, with a view to requesting it to make itself available for consultation, as and when the need arises.

11. The Central Organ also called on all the parties to the conflict to create safe and secure conditions to facilitate the channelling of adequate and timely humanitarian and relief assistance to refugees and internally displaced persons.

*12. The Central Organ appealed to all the parties to the conflict to cooperate with the appropriate international agencies so as to encourage and accelerate the voluntary repatriation of refugees in eastern Zaire, it being understood that this repatriation would ensure their safety and dignity.

13. The Central Organ called on the Security Council to take immediate and appropriate measures to ensure that the elements of the former Rwandese Army and Interhamwe militias are disarmed and demobilized. Those suspected of the genocide should appear before the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

14. The Central Organ requested the Secretary-General to take appropriate practical measures, including the dispatch of a mission of the OAU Commission of Twenty on Refugees, in order to assess the situation of refugees and displaced persons in eastern Zaire and all other countries of the region.

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* Reservations entered by Zaire on paragraphs 6, 9, 10 and 12.

15. With regard to the situation in Burundi, the Central Organ endorsed the decision of the sixty-fifth ordinary session of the Council of Ministers, held at Tripoli (CM/Dec.306 (LXV)) and welcomed the proposed regional summit to be held at Arusha on 8 April 1997.

16. The Central Organ called on the Follow-up Committee for the Implementation of the Bujumbura Conference Plan of Action on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in the Great Lakes Region to meet in order to review all aspects of the humanitarian and refugee crisis in the region as well as to find durable solutions to all outstanding issues of this problem.

17. The Central Organ underscored the importance of convening an international conference on peace, security, stability and development in the Great Lakes region under the auspices of OAU and the United Nations.

18. Finally, the Central Organ expressed its appreciation to President Gnassingbe Eyadema, and the Government and people of Togo for hosting its first extraordinary session and for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to all the delegations.

Annex II

Communiqué issued in Lomé on 27 March 1997

Meeting during the first special session of the Conference of State and Government of the Central Organ of the OAU Mechanism for Prevention, Management and Resolution, the President of the Togolese His Excellency Gnassingbé Eyadema, the current Chairman of OAU, the the Republic of Cameroon, His Excellency Mr. Paul Biya, His Excelle General Sani Abacha, Head of State, Commander-in-Chief of the Niger Forces, the current Chairman of the Economic Community of West Afri the Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Kof His Excellency Ambassador Mohamed Sahnoun, joint United Nations/OAU Representative for the Great Lakes region, consulted with the repre the two parties to the conflict, namely, the Government of the Repu and the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of the Con (AFDL), on ways and means of ensuring the speedy implementation of Nations/OAU plan for a peaceful settlement of the crisis in eastern

The results of this meeting were as follows:

1. The two delegations reiterated their commitment to accept

   (a) the principle of a ceasefire;

   (b) the principle of negotiations.

2. Once the delegations have returned to their countries and with their respective authorities, the United Nations and OAU will of the date of the start of negotiations and the proclamation of a which will be announced simultaneously in Lomé, Kinshasa and Goma.